

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W
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R 040606Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3462

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, ET, IT, US

SUBJECT: ITALIAN INTEREST IN USG EVACUATION PLANS FOR ETHIOPIA

REFS: (A) ADDIS 6468 OF JUNE 6, 1974; (B) STATE 026405

1. THE DIRECTOR OF RADIO VOICE OF THE GOSPEL, REVEREND MANFRED LUNDGREN, RECONFIRMED TO USIS DIRECTOR LEWIS ON FEBRUARY 19 THAT RVOG WOULD BE PREPARED TO BROADCAST AN EVACUATION WARNING TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN AND AROUND ADDIS ABABA IF REQUESTED TO DO SO BY THE EMBASSY. HE SAID THAT RVOG WAS PREPARED TO DO THIS WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. ON THIS POINT HE COMMENTED: "THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE WILL BE ON THE AIR, SO I SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN MAKING THE BROADCAST."

2. THE QUESTION OF RVOG'S MAKING A SIMILAR BROADCAST TO THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH IN REFTEL (A). WE DOUBT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHETHER THE ITALIAN EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN ADVANCE PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FOR SUCH A BROADCAST BY RVOG. IF AN EVACUATION SITUATION ACTUALLY AROSE, HOWEVER, LUNDGREN'S REMARKS SUGGEST THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT RVOG EVEN WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WOULD PERMIT A BROADCAST TO ITALIANS AS WELL AS AMERICANS. WYMAN

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